

99 Eagle Drive  
Polson, MT 59715  
January 23, 2009

Representative Dave McAlpin  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Mr. McAlpin :

I am pleased to know that you are again working on the bill concerning the "Puppy Mill" problems. I am hoping that my experience with Linda Kapsa of Shady Lane Kennels in Ballantine might be of some help to you.

My first contact with Linda Kapsa (then known as LKK Kennels) was in 1991. I purchased a black pug that had been sired by one of her males. I kept in touch with her by phone and E-Mails and visited with her at several dog shows where she only sold pugs.

Fast forward to August 19, 2006. In the spring of 2006, I was looking for another pug and started to correspond with her again. She told me that she had an 18 month old spayed female that she would only "sell to a good home" for \$600. I made arrangements to meet her at her kennel in Ballantine to look at the dog. When I arrived, the dog was in a wire pen outside of her mobile home. She told me that if I wanted to see one of the other pups, her daughter would bring it out of the kennels. I asked if I could go inside to see the other dogs and she refused with the excuse that it upsets the animals to have strangers come in and there was always a chance that prospective buyers could introduce diseases. Although I was very suspicious of the conditions, (my new pug had a very bad kennel odor and was still damp from having a bath) -but I acted with my heart instead of my head and purchased her.

When I took her to my vet for a wellness checkup, Dr. Peterson diagnosed her with a genetic eye disease as well as a chronic vaginal infection.. I called Linda and she told me that there was nothing wrong with the dog and if I wanted to return her, she would consider giving me another dog.

I called Dr.S A Khaleell in Billings at Lake Elmo Veterinary Clinic (406 252 204 .) She would not tell me who her veterinarian was , but I found his name on the Rabies certificate. He remembered when Linda brought the dog into his office that he doubted if the dog would survive because it had been in labor for many hours with a breech position pup in the birth canal. Linda asked him to do a Caesarean Section to remove the pups and to spay the dog at the same

time , because if the dog lived, it would sell for a good price as a pet quality dog. He did what she had requested and she left with the dog. He assumed that the dog had died because he never saw Linda or the dog again.

We treated her for more than a year. The tests, Dr. fees, medications, plus two surgeries were close to \$3000. I called Linda several times to ask questions that might be helpful to treat the dog but she denied that there was anything wrong. She always sounded like a very angry person when I tried to talk to her. She said that the only thing that she would do is take the dog back if I didn't want it and that she would consider giving me another pup, knowing of course that I would never do that.

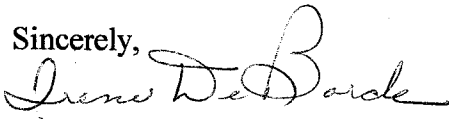
My Doctor said that he was quite sure that she had been on low doses of antibiotics to keep the infection from spreading and that the whole procedure had been done in an emergency situation. I have everything documented and would be more than willing to come to Helena to testify or help in any way that I can to insure that this type of irresponsible breeding and inhumane treatment of animals could be controlled .

Please keep me informed on the progress of this bill.

You have my permission to share or make copies of this letter.

I may be reached at [ihollyhock@yahoo.com](mailto:ihollyhock@yahoo.com) or 406 883 2063

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene DeBorde". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Irene DeBorde